

**Cross-Border Coordination Breakout Session Notes**  
**WBIWG Meeting – Kalispell, Montana**  
**November 15, 2013**

- Contacts – need to find the right people and/or positions
- The contact information needs to be kept up to date
  - SharePoint?
  - Yahoo or Google group?
  - NIIX group? National Interoperability Information eXchange (NIIX) sponsored by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)  
<http://www.niix.org/niix/index.jsp>
  - CITIG (Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group) <http://www.citig.ca/>
- Tribal involvement is essential
  - Blackfeet Tribe
  - Blood Tribe
- It's important to establish relationships. Face-to-face contact is essential
- Continue WBIWG meetings
- Identify key players that should be represented at WBIWG meetings
  - Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA)
  - MATIC Fusion Center
  - Industry Canada/FCC?
  - Customs and Border Protection Field Operations
- Plan WBIWG meetings well in advance to provide for out-of-country travel approvals
- Operations need to be standardized so that responses are automatic; everyone will know what to expect; responses can be predictive.
- Operational procedures for VLAW31/BLUE are needed
  - Law enforcement likely to already know operational procedures
  - Need to make sure that fire folks, public works, conservation/forest people are also familiar and comfortable with the operational procedures.
- Ownership of procedures
  - Draft recommendations that can serve as a nucleus that others can use as a starting point.
  - Provide a central repository for sample procedures
- One method for promoting regular cross-border interaction is to perform small table top or functional exercises
  - Regular exercises will multiply numbers of involved participants
  - Reinforces relationship building
  - Authorization needed?
  - Could just be considered a local initiative
  - Give priority to conduct these cross-border exercises on a REGULAR basis
    - Dan Hawkins was identified as someone who could facilitate these
    - Curtis and Howard offered to identify key players who should be involved
- Meeting notes/Synopsis of the WBIWG meeting is important
  - Distribution of the notes is key
  - Notes provide core elements that can be included when looking for funding
- “Grant Ready”
  - Identify improvement needs that can be rolled up into the next grant cycle.
  - Possible funding/grant sources:
    - Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) – John Conrad's agency provides \$5,000 - \$10,000 training grants.
- Tie WBIWG meetings with exercise dates
- Consider using Border Patrol Master Exercise Practitioners (MEPs), who are skilled at preparing and running exercises
- Dept. of Energy/Civil Support Team (National Guard) also could supply valuable resources.